Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme: In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, scheme for Development of exportable Products and their Marketing has been introduced in 1995-96. During the 8th Five Year Plan financial provision of Rs. 750 lakhs was made for the scheme.

Market Development Assistance (MDA): With the view to ensure continuous production and employment in the handloom sector and to avoid periodic accumulation of stocks with the aid of rebated sale the scheme of MDA was introduced. The rebate which is limited to 20% is borne equally by the Central and State Governments. During the 8th FiveYear Plan financial provision of Rs. 28,124 lakhs was made for the scheme.

Group Insurance Scheme: Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the Socio-economic obligation of weavers towards his family and the uncertainity of his working capacity in old age. The financial provision under the Scheme during the 8th Five Year Plan was for Rs. 677.40 lakhs.

Handloom Weavers' Co-operatives

2284. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies functioning and those remaining dormant, State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to boost the performance of handloom sector under the new textile policy.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The state-wise details of Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies functioning and those remaining dormant are not maintained by the Ministry of Textiles. However, based on information received from NABARD and State Governments, there are more than 23,000 Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies in the country.

(b) The Government of India extends assistance under various developmental and welfare schemes to State Governments for overall development of handloom sector and welfare of weavers.

Powerloom/Handloom and Handicrafts Units in Tamil Nadu

2285. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of powerloom, handloom and handicrafts units functioning at present in different parts of Tamil Nadu and the employees engaged in each of them;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the units are running into losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof, unit-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to give financial assistance and other incentives to revive those sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The information available in this regard is as below:

	No. of units	Employees engaged
Powerloom	66,917	7,92,820
Handloom	2,01,909	6,07,675
Handicrafts	31,746	1,26,858

(b) and (c) At a given point of time, in any industry, there would be units running in losses due to a variety of reasons such as demand recession in domestic and international market, technological obsolescence and financial problems. It is not possible to compile the unitwise details because of the decentralised nature of the industry.

(d) The Central Government provides support to these sectors through various schemes including welfare schemes for those engaged in these sectors. Some of these schemes are as follows:

Sector		Schemes
Powerloom	(i)	Powerloom Service Centres
	(ii)	Computer Aided Design Centres
	(iii)	Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers
Handloom	(i)	Project Package Scheme
	(ii)	Handloom Development Centre and Quality Dyeing Unit Scheme
	(iii)	Group Health Package Scheme
	(iv)	Thrift Fund Scheme
	(v)	Market Development Assistance Scheme
Handicrafts	(i)	Training Schemes
	(ii)	Design and Technical Development
	(iii)	Marketing and Market Development Support
	(iv)	Craft Development Centres
	(v)	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme